

Remarks

This amendment is being filed in connection with the above-referenced patent application and in response to the Office Action dated January 25, 2006 in connection therewith. In the instant Office Action, claims 9 and 19 stand objected to because of an informality; claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11-13, 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwata (US 2002/0051449); and claims 4, 5, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Iwata (US 2002/0051449) as applied to claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11-13, 16 and 18, and further in view of Bragg (US 2003/0012145). Claim 7, 9, 10, 17, 19 and 20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but have been indicated as comprising allowable subject matter.

Applicants have amended claims 9 and 19 herein to overcome the informality objection, and have also amended the instant claims so that each of the pending claims (as amended) recites the allowable subject matter from at least one of the previous claims which have been indicated by the Examiner as comprising such allowable subject matter. In particular, allowable-subject-matter claim 7 has been effectively rewritten into claim 1, by amending independent claim 1 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 7, including the limitations of intervening claims 3 and 6; allowable-subject-matter claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating therein all of the limitations of the previous independent claim 1 as well as the limitations of intervening claim 8; allowable-subject-matter claim 17 has been effectively rewritten into claim 11, by amending independent claim 11 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 17, including the limitations of intervening claims 13 and 16; and allowable-subject-matter claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating therein all of the limitations of the previous independent claim 11 as well as the limitations of intervening claim 18.

Thus, as amended, there are 4 independent claims (*i.e.*, claims 1, 9, 11 and 19), each of which comprises subject matter which has been indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. That is, amended independent claim 1 comprises the subject matter of previous (allowable-subject-matter) claim 7; amended, and now independent, claim 9 is previous (allowable-subject-matter) claim 9 rewritten in independent form; amended independent claim 11 comprises the subject matter of previous (allowable-subject-matter) claim 17; and amended, and now independent, claim 19 is previous (allowable-subject-matter) claim 19 rewritten in independent form. Applicants have also

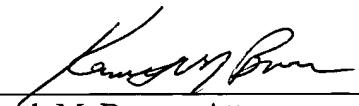
canceled claims 3, 6-8, 13 and 16-18, and have added new dependent claims 21-28, which reflect only subject matter which had been included in the previously outstanding claims.

For the above reasons, Applicants submit that each of the currently pending independent claims – *i.e.*, claims 1, 9, 11 and 19 – comprises allowable subject matter (as admitted by the Examiner) and thus are patentable over the cited references. And each of the remaining currently pending claims – *i.e.*, dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 20-28 – depends from one of the independent claims and are therefore patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of this submission. The Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's attorney, Kenneth M. Brown, at (908) 582 – 5998, should there be any questions or issues for discussion in the reconsideration of the pending application.

Respectfully,

Anindya Basu
Chih-Hao Luke Ong
April Patricia Rasala
Frederick Brice Shepherd
Gordon Thomas Wilfong

By 
Kenneth M. Brown, Attorney
Reg. No. 37590
908 – 582 – 5998

Lucent Technologies Inc.

Date: 4/11/06